

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Kirkpatrick Family Fund's Mollie Spencer Farm Welcomes Blake Keesee,
Son of Christian Keesee, to the Board of Directors***

YUKON, OKLAHOMA, January 18, 2021 – The Board of Directors for the Mollie Spencer Farm recently gathered to celebrate new board member Blake Keesee, son of Christian Keesee, and grandson of John Kirkpatrick, founder of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund. The board also celebrated longtime friend and colleague James D. Crosby on his upcoming retirement as City Manager of Yukon in January. The Mollie Spencer Farm, an initiative of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, honors through its name the original purchaser and great-great grandmother of Christian Keesee, President – Kirkpatrick Family Fund.

Blake Keesee is a direct descendant of Mollie Spencer, and is the 6th generation to care for one of the oldest pieces of continually-owned real estate in the state of Oklahoma. The 33-acre Spencer Homestead was originally purchased in 1894 by Mollie Spencer, whose husband, L.M. Spencer, and brother-in-law, A.N. Spencer, founded the town of Yukon in 1891. Mollie Spencer was the grandmother of Oklahoma Philanthropist, John Kirkpatrick, and great-great grandmother to his grandson Christian Keesee, who owned the farm for 40 years. In 2017, Keesee gifted the farm to the Kirkpatrick Family Fund.

“I am very pleased the Kirkpatrick Family Fund has welcomed my son, Blake Keesee, to the Board of Directors of the Mollie Spencer Farm,” said Christian Keesee, President – Kirkpatrick Family Fund. “By doing so, we continue to celebrate the memory of Mollie Spencer and ensure the protection of the property for public use and wildlife protection for generations to come. I’d also like to congratulate my friend, Jim Crosby, on his long and fruitful career in city government with the city of Yukon. We are thrilled he will continue in his role on the board.”

Located on the original Chisolm Trail, the farm serves to educate the community on prairie living during this post-Civil War cattle drive era and has played host to many annual community events for the past several decades. A partnership with Yukon Middle School enables students to enjoy frequent visits to learn about the biodiversity of the farm, including the existing honeybee and pollinator populations, as well as deer, foxes, egrets, geese, ducks, chickens, donkeys, and horses. Future curriculum is being developed in the areas of history, science, and farming tied to the larger context of the Mollie Spencer Farm.

“Following an unprecedented year, the Kirkpatrick Family Fund looks forward to continuing our tradition of preserving this historic land, providing educational programming, and hosting community events we all enjoy,” said Keesee.

*The **Mollie Spencer Farm** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization owned and operated by the Kirkpatrick Family Fund for the benefit of the Yukon and surrounding communities. The Mollie Spencer Farm promotes the health, wellbeing, and humane treatment of animals, while also providing a refuge for a few farm animals and naturally-occurring wildlife. The farm’s mission is to provide educational opportunities that promote animal well-being, support regional history, and celebrate a sense of community pride in Yukon, Oklahoma. Public access is only allowed during public events and scheduled activities. For more information please call (405) 767-3702 or visit us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/molliespencerfarm).*

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